Gauge Conversion of Quilon-Shenkottai Virudhu Nagar

2097. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) at which stage the gauge conversion of Quilon-Shenkottai Virudhu Nagar stands at present;

(b) by when, the entire process is likely to be completed;

(c) whether Government would consider to commence the work from the end of Quilon;

(d) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) On Virudunagar-Tenkasi and Tirunelveli-Trichendur bridge work and earthwork have been taken up. Final location survey in the ghat section between Quilon and Tenkasi has been recently completed. Preparation of plans and estimate have been taken up.

(b) No target date has been fixed for completion of this project.

(c) and (d) The long lead items such as land acquisition construction of major and minor bridges and earthwork will be taken up depending upon the availability of resources.

Inferior Quality Meals in Railway Canteens and Trains

†2098. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the canteens run by the Railways at North Avenue and South Avenue, New Delhi, as well as in the Shramjeevi and Lichhvi Express trains, serve inferior quality meals and breakfasts to MP's their guests and passengers, which is not commensurate with their price :

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps being taken to upgrade quality in the two canteens in Delhi as well as in both the above trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) Railway manages catering services in North

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Avenue canteen of MPs. The performance of canteen has been satisfactory. Management of South avenue canteen has been licensed out to a private licensee by the Lok Sabha Secretariat since July 2001. As regards catering services in Shramjeevi and Lichhvi Express trains, the services are managed through private licensees and the food is supplied to the travelling passengers as per prescribed norms. Complaints received are investigated and disciplinary/punitive action taken against the defaulters, wherever deficiencies are detected.

(c) Railway monitors the catering services in railway canteens/trains through inspections at different levels and are making every endeavour to improve the quality and standard of food and beverages.

Passengers Travelling on Roofs of Coaches

†2099. DR. A. K. PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of passengers found travelling on the roofs of coaches during the last two years; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to prevent such travel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) State-wise figures are not maintained However, as result of regular checks conducted against roof top travelling during the last two years i.e. 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, 3951 and 4242 persons respectively were apprehended.

(b) Roof top travelling is a punishable offence under the Railways Act. Apart from the regular checks, extensive publicity is given through various media including public address system to educate the travelling public about the perils of such travel. Notices are also displayed inside the compartments. The progressive electrification of railway routes is also a deterrent for such hazardous travel.

Interim Speed Certificate for Rail Rolling Stocks

2100. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the definition of Interim Speed Certificate issued to rolling stocks, prior to issuance of final speed certificate;

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